

<b>DOCKETED</b>	
<b>Docket Number:</b>	24-OPT-02
<b>Project Title:</b>	Compass Energy Storage Project
<b>TN #:</b>	263223
<b>Document Title:</b>	Jill Mitzev Comments - Arguments Against BESS
<b>Description:</b>	N/A
<b>Filer:</b>	System
<b>Organization:</b>	Jill Mitzev
<b>Submitter Role:</b>	Public
<b>Submission Date:</b>	5/20/2025 3:31:52 PM
<b>Docketed Date:</b>	5/20/2025

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Submitted On: 5/20/2025  
Docket Number: 24-OPT-02*

## **Arguments Against BESS**

Dear officials, I am strongly against the proposed BESS facility in San Juan Capistrano. Lithium battery fires emit toxic gases within seconds, threatening air quality and public health. First responders and residents alike would be exposed to potentially life-altering toxins, with serious short- and long-term health consequences. Moreover, any suppression efforts risk contaminating the Oso and Arroyo Creeks, feeding into the San Juan Creek Watershed and the Pacific Ocean. This threatens not only local ecosystems but also regional water quality and marine life.

This will result in the Exacerbation of California's Insurance Crisis. California is already facing a growing homeowner's insurance crisis, with insurers retreating from high-risk fire zones. Approving this facility in a wildfire-prone area will further strain insurance availability and affordability for residents of San Juan Capistrano, Laguna Niguel, and surrounding areas. No energy project should place basic residential security and insurability at greater risk.

There is Negligible Public Benefit vs. Overwhelming Public Risk. While battery energy storage plays a role in grid resilience, this specific project offers no clear or direct benefit to the immediate community. Instead, it externalizes massive risks onto residents, ecosystems, first responders, and city infrastructure—all for the potential gain of a private company. This is an unacceptable trade-off.

This is the wrong location for this facility.